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MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 13, 2012
TO: House Health Policy Committee
FROM: Michael F. Dabbs, President
SUBJ: H.B. 5697 & S.B. 1122 – Sports Concussion

1. Brain Injury Association of Michigan (BIAMI) supports the substitute bills H.B. 5697 & S.B.1122
2. BIAMI has had an over 12 year history working with the MI. High School Athletic Assoc. (MHSAA) on increasing sports concussion awareness and education among coaches, trainers, school administrators, athletes and their families in Michigan.
 - o It began in 1999 with the distribution of over 10,000 sports concussion palm cards.
 - o MHSAA was recognized in 2000 by their national high school athletic federation for their sports concussion efforts and collaboration.
 - o And for the past two years, we have collaborated on legislation with Athletic Trainers, Physical Therapists, and various doctors in specialties that deal with concussions and brain injuries.
3. Shortly after Rep. Hooker took office, he, his staff, along with representatives of the MHSAA and I began working on the creation of sports concussion legislation modeled closely after what has widely become known as "The Zack Lystedt Law" developed in the State of Washington and endorsed by the NFL.
4. Due to the MHSAA's efforts to educate their coaches on sports concussion, Rep. Hooker's bill is focused on those youth athletic organizations public and private that would not be covered by the MHSAA's rules.
5. Furthermore, it will require any organization utilizing public facilities to certify their compliance with the proposed sports concussion standards.
6. Discussions have been held with the Dept. of Community Health regarding some of the requirements indicated in the bills in order to minimize the administrative burden of these requirements on the department.

Let me strongly urge the Committee to pass these bills today and to expeditiously pass them in the House. I sincerely hope these bills can be enacted during the month of September.

Thank you for the opportunity to address the committee on this important brain injury topic.